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IDRC GRANT / SUBVENTION DU CRDI : - CLIMATE-SMART VILLAGES AS A PLATFORM TO RESILIENCE, WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, EQUITY, AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

ACTIVITY REPORT

Project Title	Climate smart villages as platforms for resilience building, women empowerment, equity, and sustainable food systems
Title of Activity	Internal writeshop cum field visit
Date	April 30- May 7, 2022
Venue	Phnom Penh and Koh Kong, Cambodia
Participants	<p><i>RCA team</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emily Monville 2. Wilson Barbon 3. Julian Gonsalves 4. Or Thy 5. Annie Secretario 6. Dulce Dominguez <p><i>Cambodia team</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Chanphirum Thong 8. Nov Nouket 9. Yunil Nut 10. Moeu Sokchea <p><i>Philippine team</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Maggie Rosimo 12. Marie Aislinn E. Cabriole 13. Farah Urdelas 14. Rico Locaba* <p><i>Myanmar team</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Phyu Sin Thant* 16. Ye Khaung* 17. Chan Myae* <p>*Attended virtually</p>
Objectives	<p>The main objective of the activity was to share the new knowledge and evidences generated by the project. Specifically, it aimed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review/validate and finalize the draft briefs along the themes of resilience building, women empowerment, equity and sustainable food systems; and • To provide the participants the opportunity to get to know the Chhouk CSV in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia.
Outputs (if applicable)	Validated briefs
Prepared by	Marie Aislinn E. Cabriole

Summary

The internal writeshop and field visit in Cambodia was conducted on April 30 to May 7, 2022 to share the new knowledge and evidence generated by the *Climate-Smart Villages as Platforms for Resilience Building, Women Empowerment, Equity, and Sustainable Food Systems* project, a 26-month regional project funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Specifically, the activity allowed the participants to review and validate the 13 draft briefs along with the themes of resilience building, women empowerment, equity, and sustainable food systems following the writeshop process; and to get to know the Chhouk Climate-Smart Village (CSV) in Koh Kong, Cambodia. Overall, the activity can be divided into three parts: (1) pre-writeshop, (2) activity proper, and (3) post-writeshop.

Background

People living in vulnerable topographies such as marginal uplands, mountains and arid areas, are left behind and continue to suffer from poverty and hunger due to the climate change and its consequences. These circumstances also had unexpected negative gender and environmental impacts.

With climate variability and unpredictability, and the increased occurrences of extreme weather, these pockets of poverty and food insecurity will worsen. Successful adaptation to climate change requires transformative change. This change should include a more inclusive and mixed food system, with particular attention to small and marginalized farmers.

To further generate evidence and new knowledge on the role of local platforms in supporting climate change adaptation in agriculture, the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) is studying the contribution of climate smart villages (CSVs) and climate smart agriculture (CSA) in enriching local food systems for better nutrition, enhancing livelihoods, increasing household resilience, and, helping enhance gender equity and inclusion. Specifically, IIRR is conducting research in the Philippines, Myanmar and Cambodia through its 26-month regional project funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) entitled *Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs) as a platform to resilience building, women empowerment, equity, and sustainable food systems*.

As the project is ending in August 2022, a face-to-face writeshop cum field visit was conducted to share the new knowledge and evidences generated by the project. Specific objectives of the activity were:

1. To review/validate and finalize the draft briefs along the themes of resilience building, women empowerment, equity and sustainable food systems; and
2. To provide the participants the opportunity to get to know the Chhouk CSV in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia.

Activity flow (program/process/content)

As part of the project milestones, the internal writeshop involves three phases: pre-writeshop, writeshop proper, and post-writeshop. The pre-writeshop phase covers the development of the activity design, logistics planning, and activity preparation while, the writeshop proper focuses on the conduct of the internal writeshop in Cambodia. Lastly, the post-writeshop covers activities such as actual revisions and finalization of outputs.

Pre-writeshop

Prior to the conduct of the actual activity, the writeshop steering committee composed of Emily Monville, Wilson Barbon, Julian Gonsalves, Or Thy, Nov Nouket, and Annie Secretario with Marie Aislinn Cabriole as the writeshop coordinator conducts regular updating meetings that focuses on the following: development and finalization of activity design and writeshop program (Annex 1), and finalization of roles (Annex 2), outputs, and writeshop activities.

To maximize the travel of the participants to Cambodia, the committee decided to conduct a field visit to the Chhouk Climate-Smart Village (CSV) and Koh Kong province. The overall lead for the field visit is Or Thy, with support from the IIRR Cambodia team.

On the other hand, Annie Secretario leads the logistical arrangements with support from Nov Nouket. The preparations include flight and hotel bookings, processing of travel requirements such as vaccination certificates, visas, travel permits and authorizations, etc.

Lastly, Dr. Julian Gonsalves with support from Dulce Dominguez led the development of the draft briefs prepackaged from previous and relevant research outputs with focus on the themes of resilience building, women empowerment, equity and sustainable food systems. Said draft briefs were then assigned to presenters (Annex 3).

Activity proper

On the evening of April 30 (Saturday), the group from the Philippines traveled from the Manila airport (MNL), and arrived at the Phnom Penh airport (PNH) past midnight. On May 1 (Sunday), the group took time to rest given the travel schedule of the previous day. May 2 (Monday) was allotted for external meetings and preparatory activities for the writeshop. The writeshop proper was conducted on May 3 (Tuesday). From May 4 (Wednesday) to May 5 (Thursday), the group traveled from Phnom Penh to Koh Kong for the field visit activities. On May 6 (Friday), the group had internal and external meetings, wrapped up the activity, and took a COVID-19 antigen test as a requirement for departure. By midnight of May 7 (Sunday), the group traveled from PNH to MNL and arrived in the Philippines by dawn.

In summary, the activity can be divided into three parts: (1) a writeshop, (2) a field visit, and (3) internal and external meetings.

Writeshop

As scheduled, the writeshop was conducted on May 3 at the Meeting Room of the Poulo Wai Hotel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It was a hybrid event given that there are both face-to-face and virtual participants (Annex A) from the IDRC project country teams. Following the program, Or Thy gave a warm welcome to the participants while Emily Monville thoroughly discussed the objectives and target audience of the briefs. Afterward, Marie Aislinn Cabriole presented the writeshop process, roles, and some tips for commenting. The assigned presenters then shared the highlights of each brief before the resource persons give constructive feedback and comments for revision.

Aside from reviewing the 13 draft briefs, the team also discussed and agreed on the following:

1. Editor- The project team will get the services of an editor to finalize the briefs.

2. Length- There would be no limit in terms of length for the briefs given the differences in content.
3. Audience- The briefs will be shared with IDRC, other partner organizations, and national and local policymakers; and will be printed and used during the upcoming regional sharing workshop in July 2022 (tentative).
4. Photographs- The briefs will include photos taken from the field.
5. Translation to local language- It is up to the country teams to translate the briefs into the local language for in-country use.
6. Design- The briefs will follow a revised version of Research Brief 7 (Annex 4) with a photo at the bottom, and includes a footnote referring to the original paper.

The day was capped off with Dr. Julian Gonsalves facilitating a short discussion on the next steps for the IDRC project, and expressing his gratitude to the field teams as front liners for the research and data collection activities, especially during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also mentioned the organization's plans for applying for two IDRC grants: (1) CLARE large grant with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on Nature-based Solutions (NbS); and (2) CLARE small grant as a follow-up to the current IDRC regional project. However, he also realistically emphasized the uncertainty of the said grant applications due to the competition.

On the other hand, the potential uses of the new knowledge generated through the IDRC CSV regional project were also discussed given the results and outcomes of the research. Particularly, these uses include project programming, working with local/ community-based organizations, vulnerability assessments in Cambodia, etc.

Field visit

The team had an early start on May 4 as it was a long ride to Koh Kong province. Along the way, the first stop was to visit a Village Development Fund and Saving Group (VDFSG) supported by the Biodiversity Corridors Conservation Project (ADB-BCC) project at Chhouk village. One of the officers discussed some information about their VDFSG such as the number of members, male to gender member ratio, and initial investment and savings. The members of the said VDFSG also showcased their agricultural practices and technologies such as native pig raising, broiler production, home gardening, and drip irrigation.

Afterward, the group proceeded to the Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary wherein the members mentioned the vast protected area covered by the sanctuary. The ecotourism potential of the forest and surrounding wetland was also evident during the visit given the boat rides, picnic/observation deck, and the mangrove walk. The day ended with the group spending the night in Koh Kong province.

The following day (May 5), the group traversed a river via a barge and visited a chicken farmer in Khum Thma Doun Pov, Koh Kong. The farmer discussed his endeavors and mentioned the fact that he is in charge of the farm operations while his wife manages the agribusiness side such as selling agricultural products.

Along the way back to Phnom Penh, the group also visited an agroforestry farmer, and the only coffee grower in the area. Lastly, the group visited a commercial farmer in the Thma Bang district showcasing his cucumber and eggplant farm.

Internal and external meetings

To maximize the trip to Cambodia, the group also allotted two days for internal and external meetings with different attendees and partner organizations based on the country.

To end the whole activity, Farah Urdelas facilitated a short reflection and sharing of the participants in terms of lessons learned such as land ownership issues, scaling, providing technical support, project targeting, and programming.

Post-writeshop

Using the feedback and comments received during the writeshop, the assigned presenters will revise the and submit to the writeshop team on or before May 18, 2022. The revised drafts will then be shared with the original authors for comments by May 20, and the final revisions is scheduled to be done during the week of May 23-27, 2022.

Key issues/challenges, actions taken, lessons learned

The main challenge experienced with the activity was the logistical preparations. The participants from the Philippine country team were just finalized during the week of April 25-29, 2022. The delay can be attributed to the need for passport renewals, need for validated vaccination certificate (VaxCertPH QR code or Bureau of Quarantine immunization card), and costs of flight bookings.

On the other hand, the Myanmar team was not able physically join the activity due to the lack of available flights from the country as the international flights to and from Myanmar only started again its operations on April 18, 2022. With this, the Myanmar team virtually attended the writeshop with some technical difficulties.

Given the challenges experienced by the writeshop team during the planning and activity itself, the following are points for improvement that can be applied to the upcoming regional sharing workshop in July 2022:

- Technical preparations for a hybrid event such as having the right electronic equipment (microphones, speakers, webcams)
- Logistical arrangements (flight schedules, COVID-19 protocols, contingency funds, etc.)
- Flexibility in terms of field visit schedule and factoring in traffic and travel time

Photodocumentation



Image 1. Writeshop at Poulo Wai Hotel (Source: Yunil Nut, IIRR Cambodia)



Image 2. Meeting with VDFSG at Chhouk Villagel (Source: Marie Aislinn Cabriole, IIRR Philippines)



Image 3. Agricultural practices by the VDFSG members (Source: Marie Aislinn Cabriole, IIRR Philippines)



Image 4. Visit to Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary (Source: Marie Aislinn Cabriole, IIRR Philippines)



Image 5. Chicken farmer in Khum Thma Doun Pov (Source: Marie Aislinn Cabriole, IIRR Philippines)



Image 6. Coffee grower in Koh Kong province (Source: Marie Aislinn Cabriole, IIRR Philippines)



Image 7. Meeting with Joaquin Barata of FAO Cambodia (Source: Marie Aislinn Cabriole, IIRR Philippines)



Image 8. Debriefing meeting in Phnom Penh (Source: Marie Aislinn Cabriole, IIRR Philippines)

Annexes

Annex 1: Writeshop Program (Revised as of Apr 25, 2022)

Time	Activity	Who
Day 0: Arrival		
Day 1: May 3, 2022		
8:30-9:00	Welcome remarks and introductions (5min) Expectations, objectives, discussion about target audience (10 min) The write shop process, roles, and responsibilities, tips in commenting (10 min)	Thy Emily Abbi
9:00-12:00	Presentation of briefs -5 min presentation (highlights only) -15 min feedback *includes a 15-min coffee break by 10:00	Presenters
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-14:30	Presentaiton of briefs (cont'n) -5 min presentation (highlights only) -15 min feedback	Presenters
14:30-14:45	Next steps, deadlines Writeshop evaluation and closure	Abbi
14:45-15:00	Coffee break	
15:00-17:00	Next steps on IDRC project inc. the dissemination strategy for briefs	Julian/ Wilson
17:00-17:15	Wrap up / Instructions / Reminders for the next day	Annie/ Nouket
Day 2: May 4, 2022		
7:30-10:30	Travel from Phnom Penh to Chhouk village. (CSV project)	
10:30-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Village Development Fund and Savings Group (VDFSG) at Chhouk village. Visit broiler production at Chhouk village. Visit home garden and small-scale irrigation system at Chhouk village. 	

12:00-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-14:00	Visit community fisheries and community fish refuge at Kandoal commune, Botumsakor district.	
14:00-17:00	Travel to Koh Kong province.	
Day 3: May 5, 2022		
7:00-8:00	Breakfast	
8:00am-12:00	Visit VDFSG, chicken raising, agroforestry in Thmar Bang district.	
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-17:00pm	Travel from Koh Kong to Phnom Penh.	
Day 4: May 6, 2022		
9:00-10:00	Rapid test	Emily, Julian, Wilson, Abbi, Annie, Dulce
10:00-10:30	Icebreaker	Annie/ Nouket
	Reminders on deadline	Abbi
10:15-11:45	Sharing of project or field experiences, lessons, challenges	Abbi
11:45-12:00	Closing message	Julian
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	Free time	

Annex 2: Writeshop Participants

Participant	Country of Origin	Role	Nature of participation
1. Emily Monville	Philippines	Resource person/ commenter	Face-to-face
2. Wilson Barbon	Philippines	Resource person/ commenter	Face-to-face
3. Julian Gonsalves	Philippines	Resource person/ commenter	Face-to-face
4. Marie Aislinn Cabriole	Philippines	Facilitator, writeshop coordinator, presenter	Face-to-face
5. Phyu Sin Thant	Myanmar	Presenter	Face-to-face
6. Or Thy	Cambodia	Resource person/ commenter, field visit coordinator	Face-to-face
7. Chanphirum Thong	Cambodia	Resource person/ commenter	Face-to-face
8. Nov Nouket	Cambodia	Resource person/ commenter	Virtual
9. Chan Myae	Myanmar	Resource person/ commenter	Virtual
10. Ye Khaung	Myanmar	Resource person/ commenter	Virtual
11. Maggie Rosimo	Philippines	Presenter	Face-to-face
12. Rico Locaba	Philippines	Resource person/ commenter	Virtual
13. Farah Urdelas	Philippines	Presenter	Face-to-face
14. Annie Secretario	Philippines	Logistics coordinator, documenter	Face-to-face
15. Dulce Dominguez	Philippines	Documenter, layout artist	Face-to-face

Annex 3: Draft Briefs and Assigned Presenters

No.	Title	Assigned
1	Integrating gender dimensions in the Myanmar climate-smart villages	Phyu
2	Local food systems: Local Perspectives of the Value of the Enriching Local Food Systems with Climate Resilient Agriculture	Phyu
3	A holistic and analytical framework for a social technical evaluation of climate-smart villages outcomes	Rico
4	Some social benefits accruing from CSV: An assessment	Farah
5	Coconut-based systems in the Philippines: Intensification and diversification with climate-smart agriculture	Rico
6	Access and asset ownership and its implication for programming in climate resilience in agriculture in Myanmar	Phyu
7	Pathways to Women's Empowerment in the Promotion of Climate Change Adaptation in the Philippines, Myanmar, and Cambodia	Farah
8	Applying Participatory Action Research Methods in Community Based Adaptation with Smallholders in Myanmar	Phyu
9	Assessing gender outcomes in smallholder agriculture	Abbi
10	Social learning can contribute significantly to better gender outcomes in climate adaptation agriculture	Farah
11	Microcredit and savings associations for building rural household resilience	Abbi
12	A financial analysis of homestead native chicken raising	Abbi
13	Cost-benefit analysis of native pigs as a climate-smart agriculture option in the Philippines	Rico

Annex 4: Selected brief design

Research Brief 7

Based on externally peer-reviewed
published material



Pathways to Women's Empowerment in the Promotion of Climate Change Adaptation in the Philippines, Myanmar, and Cambodia

Climate change is not gender neutral. Women are a vulnerable population within a vulnerable population. Far from an equalizing event, climate change risks and disasters often magnify and aggravate existing inequalities in society, including gender inequality. National governments and the international development community recognized that in order to strengthen and accelerate their goals for agricultural development, economic growth and food security they need to build the contributions that women make and take steps to alleviate barriers to women empowerment.

Gender and agriculture

Empowering women and advancing women's role in agriculture are critical in responding to the challenges of food security, poverty reduction, and climate change. In many developing countries including Myanmar, Cambodia and the Philippines, women's essential economic contributions in agriculture have remained largely invisible, even as women comprise 43 percent of agricultural labor force globally, and ranges from about 35 percent in South Asia to almost 50 percent in East and Southeast Asia. Agriculture is, relative to manufacturing and services, the most important source of employment for women (FAO, 2011).

Women's participation in the rural economy varies considerably across regions, but invariably women are overrepresented in unpaid, seasonal, and part-time work. The available empirical evidence in this report and other gender studies suggest that women are often paid less than men, for the same work.

Overall, the labor burden of women in agriculture exceeds that of men and includes a higher proportion of reproductive household responsibilities related to food provisioning and care work for family members. (Verzosa, 2020). Social norms also play a role in exacerbating gender inequality that reinforce the low status and lack of agency of women, and the dominance of men in the various dimensions of women's empowerment, including decision-making, access to resources, ownership of assets, control over income and division of labor and workload.

The current gender debate in agriculture that has received much attention in the literature is that the agricultural sector in many developing countries is underperforming, in part because women, who represent a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy through their roles as farmers, laborers and entrepreneurs, almost everywhere face more severe constraints than men in access to productive resources.

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